

CAR-53
Big Branch Farm
Preston
Private

Circa 1810

Big Branch Farm is one of Caroline County's good telescopic dwellings with part dating from around 1810 and possibly part earlier. The tall brick section and middle frame part resemble in form and plan Oyster Creek Farm, Dorchester County. The stair ascends to the third story and is a handsome delicate Federal period stair. Similarly, the mantel in the living room is of interest for the fluting and gouge-work detail typical of the Federal dwellings on the Eastern Shore. Atypical to the house is a plaster medallion in the center of the ceiling and a plaster cornice.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Chezzum Brick House, Big Branch Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Payne Rd., approximately 1/2 mile N.E. of Md. Rt. 331

CITY, TOWN

Preston

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

D. Mason Chezzum

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2, Box 260

CITY, TOWN

Preston

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21655

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 110

Folio #: 263

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chezzum House is located on Payne Road, approximately one-half mile northeast of Maryland Route 331, east of Preston, Caroline County. The structure is built in three sections, of which the late eighteenth century Federal style brick section is the most significant.

The two frame sections are both one and one-half storys. The central section is four bays long with a two room plan. On the south side of it is a two bay, one room kitchen. It is undetermined whether these were built as service wings to the house, or whether they are earlier structures.

The two story brick section is three bays wide and one room deep. The main facade (west elevation) is Flemish bond while the other sides are common bond. It has a side entrance plan with the doorway in the south bay. The door has six panels and a four pane transom. The window sash has been replaced but the windows have flat arch lintels. The gable roof has interior end stacks at both ends, the south stack being a dummy. On the north gable end, two small 4/4 pane windows flank the chimney stack.

The interior stair hall has a open string staircase with a paneled soffit and recessed paneling on the supporting wall. The staircase has a oval handrail on square balusters, with a half-round rail on the opposite wall. Other ornamentation includes shaped stair ends and turned drops from the bottom of the intermediate newel posts. The main room has Federal style trim including a plaster cornice and ceiling modallion, a fluted and gougework wood mantelpiece, and paneled door surrounds.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CAR-53

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chezzum House represents the prosperous farmhouse of the Federal style in Caroline County. The interior detail and craftsmanship produce a superior example of this form in comparison to other Caroline County examples.

The frame sections pre-dates the brick portion.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, & Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Big Branch Farm

CAR. 53



M. Bourne

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